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ORLEANS COUNTY MONITOR.

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REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS.

FOR PRESIDENT,

WILLIAM MCKINLEY,
OF OHIO.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT,

GARRETT A. HOBART,
OF NEW JERSEY.

For Presidential Electors,
MARSH O. PERKINS, of Windsor,
L. BART CROSS, of Montpelier,
HENRY C. BATES, of St. Johnsbury,
FRANK D. WHITE, of Rutland.

The Rutland Herald, defeated before the courts, is now attempting to keep up a petty warfare against Gov. Woodbury, and incidentally against the prohibitory law. So far as its attack on Woodbury is concerned it is small business.

Eugene V. Debs says: "I am opposed to the People's party endorsing Mr. Bryan or the nominee of any other party. The endorsement of the Democratic ticket by the People's party would mean the dissolution of the latter. The silver issue I regard as of minor importance in comparison with some others for which the People's party stand."

Town elections were held in Connecticut last week, most of the smaller towns electing republicans to the legislature. The indications, so far as they go politically, prove that the silver sentiment has no hold in the State and that the republicans have made gains over the last election. The indications point to a large republican majority in November.

Providence and nature seems to be on the side of the farmer and the people, while some other things are adverse. The crops of the year have been abundant in this section of the country. It will probably turn out that all things considered, this has been a most prosperous year in the United States. There has been some drought here and there, but by and large, fruit, grain, vegetables, hay and all crops have been heavy.

The announcement that Ex-Gov. Levi K. Fuller is lying at the point of death casts a gloom over the whole State. The amiable and much loved man broke down in health something over a year ago, presumably from overwork, and though every means has been resorted to to restore him to health, he has continued to fail, though at times seemingly better. If he dies, Vermont will lose one of its best and noblest citizens. His disease, first called nervous prostration, has culminated in consumption of the blood.

The political forces are getting together and lining up in the various states and the battle is waging hot all along the line. Bryan is still swinging around the circle, his visit of late having been in the south and in some of the border states. The republican authorities continue to claim that the tide is setting in strongly their way, and that there is no reasonable doubt of the election of McKinley. Reports from Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, states at one time claimed by the Bryanites, are very favorable.

In former presidential campaigns the border states of Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri have been placed in the democratic column in many of the forecasts; while New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have been classed as doubtful. In this extraordinary year, however, he would be a blind partisan indeed who would give Maryland and West Virginia to Bryan. The free silver hope of carrying New York has culminated in a ridiculous fiasco, and if the popocrats carry Delaware, Kentucky and Missouri they will have to put up an eleventh hour fight far different from their present tactics. As the fight now stands, Bryan is a beaten man.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Executive Recommendations Made by
Hon. Josiah Grout.

The Cost of a Legislative Day
Shown to Lawmakers.

Work and Need of Different State Departments
Reviewed.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of
Representatives:

Elected and sworn to be governor of the state, I humbly enter upon the duties of the office, impressed with the importance of the trust. In so doing I would gratefully and appreciatively acknowledge the honor conferred, craving the kind forbearance of all.



JOSIAH GROUT.

Good government depends upon wise laws faithfully executed.

We are assembled in regular biennial session to assist each other in encouraging such government in Vermont and under Divine guidance let us enter upon the work of such an undertaking.

United States Senator.

Among your duties will be the election of a United States senator for the term of six years from the fourth day of March next to succeed the Hon. Justin S. Morrill.

Finances.

This is probably the most interesting subject, all in all, you will consider, and from time immemorial has been instinctively accorded first position among the message topics of my honored predecessors.

Receipts, disbursements, resources and liabilities are words suggesting the ins and outs, reliability and emergency of the exchequer.

They are the ways and means language of public financing; four words in the treasurer's report to which your most careful attention is directed, standing for revenue, appropriation, dependence and credit.

The money supply now occupying so much thought invites an equally earnest consideration of its use, wherein lies the value.

In raising and appropriating the public moneys be just and prudent; avoid both extravagance and parsimony; keep the resources secure and the credit firm.

Taxation.

Our revenue flows into the treasury from various sources, and out in various ways. Instead of presenting to you a statement from the treasurer's report, showing its different features, it seems better that you should examine it for yourselves. It is brief and able, rendering clearer the particular workings of the treasury than any abridgement of it I can furnish you.

From resources and liabilities given, you will be able to determine the state tax, additional to other taxes, necessary to defray the expenses of the state for the ensuing biennial term.

This tax should not be larger than was assessed in 1894, assuming list to be nearly or quite the same, and if upon readjustment, corporation taxes should be increased, special appropriations kept at the minimum, so that ordinary expenses can be the expectation, a smaller tax will suffice. This calculation encounters the proverbial if. It depends upon the work of the session, and before we reach the state tax question you will know by your own conduct how large it should be.

Corporation Taxes and the Tax Commissioner's Report.

Thirteen annual taxes have been collected under the corporation tax law, the first in 1883, amounting to \$196,678.51, and the last in 1895, amounting to \$376,723.04. The tax for the last biennial period was \$224,572.81, being \$42,351.66 more than for the preceding biennial period. These taxes show a uniform increase, are cheerfully paid and are important to the state. They should be so assessed and collected as to deal justly by the corporations paying them, and at the same time so as to realize for the state in proportion to the protection afforded. An inquiry into the equality of assessment is suggested as a proper investigation.

The assessment and collection of the corporation taxes, constituting toward 75 per cent of the state's revenue, is a very important official duty. The faithfulness with which the work is done signifies much to the treasury. Your attention is directed to the commissioner's report for the information it affords concerning this source of income.

The Five Per Cent State Taxes.
These taxes are equalizers of the school and highway burdens in the different towns of the state. They are drafts upon the stronger in favor of the weaker. Steps in the direction of true democracy is calculated to strengthen our education and improve our roads. This plan for upbuilding the state, al-

ways acceptable to the poorer, is generally agreeable to the wealthier towns, for they well know any excess they pay inures to the benefit of the state as a whole. All, believing in Vermont, recognize that doing it unto the least is doing it unto the greatest, and so welcome the 5 per cent state taxes. Whether this step in the right direction should be lengthened, is a question for you to decide. Road improvement can profitably use more money, and incorporated school districts are reminders that the poorer communities have a right to equality in school burdens.

Double Taxation.

The public burdens should be borne by all equally, according to what each taxpayer is worth, yet the grand list upon which taxes are extended does not rest upon such an equitable foundation; until it does there will be uneasiness among the people. The taxpayer who owes more than the appraisal of his personal estate, as the law now stands, pays taxes on his debt, or more than he is worth. Offsets against personal property in making the grand list are an acknowledgment that taxes should be paid upon the basis of solvent worth.

To illustrate: The debts of A. are the credits of B, and B. should pay taxes on these credits unless he is, in turn, a debtor. If A. cannot offset his debts against his property appraisals he pays taxes on more than he is worth. B. may hold credits secured on A's farm, the full appraisal of which goes into A's list. In this case, value for which the credit was given, and the credit, are both taxed.

B. should pay taxes on the credit, for A. pays him interest with which to do it but A. should not pay taxes on the value part of the farm covered by the credit, because he pays interest to B, and owes for it besides. It is conceded that this feature of our tax system is wrong, and that the parties burdened by it are entitled to relief. The indirect remedies heretofore proposed are at the best theoretical. Some of them have been suspected of making a bad matter worse.

Remember it is the debtor that should be relieved. If farm mortgage indebtedness, wherever held, were taxed against the mortgagee, the tax paid by the mortgagee and deducted by him in settling with the mortgagee, and the mortgagee allowed offset against his real estate appraisal, the landed values of the state would pay taxes once, and the payment would be by the right parties. Each mortgagee and mortgagee, would then pay on what they respectfully held in the property. This would, by short cut, accomplish the desired relief, without changing materially, if in the least, the volume of the grand list of the state.

It is to be hoped you will give this subject your earnest attention, and unless satisfied it is a wrong, without a remedy, provide necessary legislation.

State Expenses.

Next in importance to income, are expenditures.

A contented treasury must receive more than it disburses.

The income should be sufficient to meet the proper needs of the state. In representing the desires of the people, you will be safe in avoiding new ways of expense and providing for existing ways with reasonable economy.

The biennial term just closed records an expense of \$1,140,997.56, being the largest of any in our history. The preceding term cost \$920,397.48, and the next term preceding that cost \$1,031,710.92. These are large biennial expenditures. They should be decreased instead of increased. The expenses of the state have gradually augmented during the last 25 years; so have our public gratuities and institutions. The increase of expenses, I apprehend, has been principally occasioned by the creation and maintenance of the multiplied institutions.

The Reform School, the House of Correction, the Soldiers' Home, the Waterbury Asylum, the Fish Hatchery, the State Board of Health, the Normal Schools, donations to the colleges, the Experiment Station, the Railroad Commission, the Grand Isle county bridges and the Gettysburg Monument are reminders, in part, of the consideration for which the people have exchanged their money.

To denominate such expenditures, extravagance is a misnomer. The state has value received, and in most, if not all instances, the investments were wise, patriotic, in the interest of better government and of humanity.

The money was in a large part for higher improvements, which mark our progress and adorn our civilization. Without prejudice to the past, or allowing it to influence the present, let us indiscriminately consider the various expenses of the state and according to the times, fearlessly and fairly adjust each item.

Previous to 1880, our state tax averaged about 63 cents for the biennial term, and since it has averaged about 14 cents. The actual tax burdens to the people have not increased, and, while we have expended more money, it has been for what we need.

State Auditor's Report.

The state auditor's concise and able report is an instructive bill of particulars, showing where and for what, the public money is used. It is not convenient in a message, to mention in detail the various items accruing, for instance, under the head of court expenses, salaries and the numerous other classes of expense; and the auditor's report, showing plainly what you ought to know upon this subject, fortunately renders such a tedious and unnecessary. I respectfully refer you to it, urging upon your attention the business it presents, a study of which will assist in reaching an intelligent, economical action upon measures inviting money from the treasury. Your attention is especially directed to court expenses, which, it is claimed, have increased without apparent reason. The fees paid by the state in state cases for the biennial period just closed, amounts to \$3,643, and for defending respondents \$9,236. A limitation placed upon these fees might do justice and make a saving.

Expenditures of all kinds are quite in

your hands; yet you can depend upon my hearty co-operation in any effort you may make to keep the money flow from the treasury at neap tide.

Special appropriations should be, indeed, very special, to receive your sanction.

Small appropriations, incidental to state institutions and necessary to their preservation or more economical management, will be expected.

We are committed to care for our own, and an economical provision of a businesslike character, for all state institutions, is an evident duty.

In considering retrenchment ascertain, in the interest of public welfare, what we can do without, and then do without all such things. Apply the same economy to public, as acting prudently, you would in private life, to your own affairs, and the state will be conserved to the best of your ability.

Roads and State Road Commission.

Good roads are an index of civilization, and poor roads are a heavy tax upon any community. A general interest in road improvement exists throughout the states. Early in our history national appropriations were made for interstate turnpikes, then came railroad building, absorbing all thought concerning traveled ways, and now we are returning to first principles, in which the better road figures conspicuously.

Vermont is interested in all her roads alike, and encouraged by the progress made, it is hoped she will extend the system of permanent road improvement, already so successfully begun. The 1 per cent state tax and any enlargement of it should be exclusively expended in aid of this system. Successful road improvement has been accomplished in other states through individual contribution from the locality to be directly benefited.

A measure authorizing competitive subscriptions from neighborhoods, asking that state tax be used upon its roads and awarding the tax to the locality offering the largest contribution, would carry out this thought, and would materially aid in realizing the object sought.

Expensive road building should be avoided the minimum and not the maximum cost of a good road should be the guide in carrying out the reform. Probably no one thing will attract temporary and permanent dwellers to the state, more than good roads.

If the policy of permanent improvement is continued by means of state funds there should be a state supervision of their expenditure and perhaps this cannot be provided any better than to make a permanent State Road Commission, giving it more voice in determining the character and location of reform. Regarding this subject nearer than almost any other to the material prosperity of the state it is consigned to your care.

Railroads and Railroad Commission.

For full particulars regarding the condition, business and management of the railroads of the state reference should be made to the able report of the railroad commissioners, where a full account is given of the different systems within the jurisdiction of the state.

The railroad commission born of a right to supervise the doings of railroads is now ten years old. Its powers are said to be too limited. It is old enough to speak, through its record, for itself. If it can be strengthened to render the people any better service than they now receive let it be so strengthened. Let it be made complete in all respects for doing in a fair, just way the most good to all concerned. You will give this subject your attention and consider whether the railroads should not pay a portion of the expense of this commission.

Board of Agriculture.

This board is rendering faithful service along the different lines of work it conducts, and doing much good in various ways. Its meetings held in all parts of the state supply food for thought, awaken interest and quicken endeavor among the farmers. It is a state institution that goes about doing good. It has rendered an important service in furnishing statistical information to sellers and buyers of farms and summer tourists!

Tuberculosis.

This dread disease among stock has created a deep interest and incurred not a little expense. The mystery of the disease and uncertainty of its treatment dwell so much in the unknown, that more than ordinary interest has centered in the methods employed to eradicate it.

The tests, made upon which slaughterers have been based, are as convincing as experimental work can be and undoubtedly point the way to extermination as clearly as present knowledge upon the subject is able to.

After examinations have covered the state and should they not do so as soon as possible, whether invited or not, a more definite account of presence, progress and control of the disease can (Concluded on last page.)



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